

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Congressman Pence gave the following speech on the House floor concerning the National Day of Prayer.

"Today is the 59th celebration of the National Day of Prayer. Like most Americans, I believe that the effective and fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. And what is true of individuals is also true of nations. And the truth is, America has always been a nation of prayer.

"Pilgrims relied on prayer during the first and darkest winter. Our Founding Fathers prayed during that Continental Congress in 1776. President Lincoln offered his famous proclamation for humility, fasting, and prayer at the height of the Civil War. And President Truman named the National Day of Prayer in 1952.

"Sadly, voluntary prayer has been under attack of late, driven from our public schools and our graduation ceremonies by activist courts. And just last month, a federal court declared this National Day of Prayer to be unconstitutional. That ruling ignored our history and our traditions and should be overturned.

"During these days of challenge for American families at home and abroad, on this National Day of Prayer, let it be said now more than ever: we're a nation of prayer."